

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

State Aid for New Haven & West Haven

A very important part of my job representing you is ensuring that our communities receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report these grants and reimbursements from the state in Fiscal Year 2009–2010.

	Fiscal Year 09-10
Total Education Grants	\$192,020,957
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$918,855
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$8,356,893
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$2,257,030
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$44,004,975
Total State Funds to the 11th District	\$247,558,710



This past spring, it was my great pleasure to recognize the New Haven Age Group Athletic Club in the Senate Chamber at the State Capitol in Hartford.

In the District

State government is helping local families and the economy survive the recession. Federal stimulus funds to make area homes more energy efficient will be administered by the **Community Action Agency of New Haven**. I encourage all property owners to consider these low-cost, fuel-saving, government-sponsored upgrades.

New Haven’s **International Festival of Arts and Ideas** remains an economic boon, even as it provides the unique opportunity to showcase one of Connecticut’s signature cities each year. The new state budget maintains modest funding for the event in part because of its positive impact on area businesses.

Also, the **Connecticut Freedom Trail** now includes the 19th century New Haven entrepreneur William Lanson, best known for extending Long Wharf into water deep enough for larger ships. That he put New Haven ‘in play’ in terms of international trade is remarkable; that he did so as an African-American man in the early 1800s is something we can all be proud of.

Safety and Accessibility for Cyclists

Over the last few years, many Connecticut residents have turned to bicycles as a healthy alternative to their regular commute. To help keep our roads safe for cyclists, I supported legislation this year that requires at least one percent of total funding for any state road improvement project to be spent on bikeways and other cycle-friendly features. It also created an 11-member advisory board that will recommend ways to make our roads more accessible and to promote cycling in our state.



State Senator
Toni Harp

Legislative Office Building, Room 2700, Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol Phone: 1-800-842-1420
E-mail: Harp@senatedems.ct.gov
Web: www.SenatorHarp.cga.ct.gov



Dear Neighbor,

The global recession has hit Connecticut hard. People have lost their jobs and even their homes. At the same time, the state’s budget deficit reached a record high of \$8.5 billion.

Our challenge this legislative session was not simply to balance the budget; we were determined to help grow jobs and protect working families and middle-class folks who are struggling to survive the recession.

We did it by passing a fair budget that makes tough cuts, protects funding for education and small businesses, and avoids across-the-board tax increases. I’m also pleased that we passed bills that will help fight breast cancer and autism, protect consumers from identity theft and preserve our environment.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Toni Harp
State Senator

I’m proud to represent the 10th Senate District: New Haven & West Haven

Staying Informed in a “Green” Way



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**State Senator
Toni Harp**
10th District

Serving New Haven & West Haven

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Fighting for a Fair Budget

In September, the General Assembly and Governor Rell agreed on a budget for the next two years. The compromise budget includes more than **\$3 billion in spending cuts—the largest reduction in state history**. We did it by cutting costs in every agency and all parts of government.

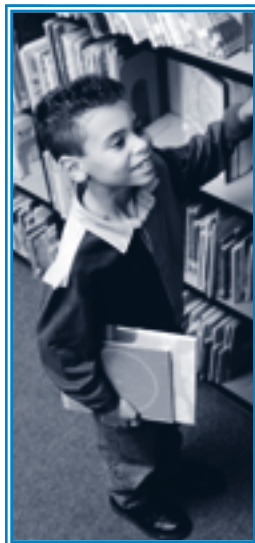
At the same time, we were able to protect middle-class families, the elderly, children and the poor from devastating cuts to critical services. Democrats also made the tax code fairer by raising revenues from joint filers making more than \$1 million a year. The budget will help stabilize Connecticut's economy and help families survive this difficult time.



Protecting Families from Reckless Cuts

Despite efforts by some to make reckless cuts, I stood up for these and other important programs and services:

- ▶ **The LIFE STAR** medical helicopter has helped save lives in every town and city in Connecticut.
- ▶ **Higher education scholarships** help students and their parents afford college. A recession is the worst time to reduce scholarships and financial aid.
- ▶ **Public libraries** add so much to our towns and cities. Across-the-board cuts, as some proposed, would have hit them hard.
- ▶ **School-based health centers** help protect children from epidemics, such as the flu. Deep cuts to these centers would have undermined public health.



Felony Charges for Mortgage Fraud

Potential homeowners trust that a mortgage lender or broker is acting in good faith. When that trust is broken, however, unscrupulous lenders could now face a felony charge of residential mortgage fraud. Effective October 1, a person who is convicted of just one count could face a \$5,000 fine and up to five years in prison. The new law should serve as a deterrent for unethical brokers and help protect new homebuyers.

Cracking Down on Credit Card Companies

For years, credit card companies have solicited students on college campuses. As a result, more and more college students face insurmountable credit card debt. Parents also find themselves responsible for their children's debt. That's why we passed a law putting restrictions on the issuance and marketing of credit cards on public college campuses. Credit card companies must hold financial education sessions on campuses where they are marketing. This law forbids credit card companies from automatically taking debt collection action against a student's parent. All told, it is a dramatic step toward preventing youth from incurring debt before they start their professional careers.



actually become teachers. Additionally, this law will give greater access to the Teach for America program, which encourages new college graduates to teach in challenging school districts.

Addressing the Teacher Shortage

Connecticut faces a teacher shortage in the near future, and if nothing is done, students could face the fallout. This year the legislature took action by modernizing the teacher certification process and streamlining the way in which those interested in teaching

WORKING FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM



Comprehensive Health Care Reform

Skyrocketing health care costs are squeezing businesses and families. President Obama has said the status quo is unaffordable—that's why he's fighting for national reform and why we're working hard on health care in Connecticut.

Thanks to the passage of Sustinet, Connecticut is well positioned to be a national leader on health care reform.

This bold initiative seeks to overhaul the state's health care system by focusing on improved quality and access to services, addressing coverage for the uninsured and controlling skyrocketing costs. The legislature will receive detailed recommendations in 2011 with the goal of lowering costs and expanding access.

When Health Insurance Coverage is Denied

When you or a loved one is faced with a life-threatening situation, every minute counts. This new law establishes an expedited appeals process in circumstances where an insurer denies treatment and the length of time it takes to complete that appeal could cause or worsen a life-threatening situation. The General Assembly also passed legislation to prohibit short-term use of prescription drugs for anxiety as a factor in denying health care coverage. Without this new law, some individuals would not be able to acquire preventive health coverage, making them unable to afford routine screenings and other procedures necessary to maintain good health.

'Silver Alert' System for Missing Seniors

This year we established a 'Silver Alert' to help locate missing seniors and disabled adults, comparable to the AMBER Alert system that helps find missing children. The system will engage public safety agencies in a search for vulnerable persons and prepare first responders for a potential rescue. The public will be notified through radio, television and electronic highway signs.

